

A.) AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A method of operating ~~a service network connected to an access network infrastructure shared with other~~ connecting customers to a plurality of service networks, comprising ~~the steps of:~~

sharing bandwidth allocated between the service networks by allocating separate channels to each of the service networks; and

allowing each service network to allocate a channel from its allocated channels to a customer based on quality measurements of the separate channels.

2. (currently amended) A method of operating ~~a service network connected to an access network infrastructure shared with other~~ connecting customers to a plurality of service networks, comprising ~~the steps of:~~

sharing bandwidth between the service networks by allocating separate channels to each of the service networks;

allowing each service network to allocate a channel from its allocated channels to a customer based on quality measurements of the separate channels; and

relaying packets from customers to their service networks using hardware address bridging so that the service networks can manage layer three operations.